

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063871

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PE

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN POSITION ON U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

REFS: A) AMB DEAN LETTER TO ASST SEC TODMAN, MARCH 9;
B) STATE 33623

1. APPRECIATE REF A, REPORTING INTER ALIA THAT IN CONVERSA-
TION WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN MARCH 3, PRESIDENT MORALES
BERMUDEZ REITERATED SUPPORT BY GOP OF USG EMPHASIS ON HUMAN
RIGHTS IN CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY, AS PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED
TO SECRETARY BY FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE WHEN IN
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WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 10 (REF B).

2. MORALES BERMUDEZ WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT FULL OBSERVANCE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALL THEIR RAMIFICATIONS CANNOT BE
EXPECTED IN LATIN AMERICA AT THIS POINT WHEN DEVELOPMENT
REQUIREMENTS, EDUCATIONAL DEFICIENCIES, POLITICAL INSTABIL-
ITY, AND EVOLVING STATE OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS RENDER

FULL AND REFINED APPLICATION OF THESE RIGHTS DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE. PRESIDENT IMPLIED THAT U.S. INSISTENCE ON ITS HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARD COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE: COULD CONTRIBUTE TO INSTABILITY AND LESSEN U.S. INFLUENCE AND ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS.

3. ACCORDING TO FBIS MARCH 16, DESPATCH BY PERUVIAN NEWS AGENCY ESI-ANDINA REPORTS FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER ARBULU IN SANTIAGO MARCH 15 DURING COURSE OF VISIT THERE, IN RESPONSE TO PRESS REQUEST FOR HIS OPINION ON U.S. ATTITUDE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. ARBULU QUOTED AS SAYING: QUOTE IN PRINCIPLE, I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST NOT INTERFERE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. I ALSO PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT ANY POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE APPLIED ACCORDING TO THE CONDITIONS EXISTING IN EACH COUNTRY. EACH COUNTRY HAS THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO DICTATE THE MEASURES IT BELIEVES ADVISABLE ACCORDING TO ITS INTERESTS AND SPECIAL SITUATION. UNQUOTE

4. PERUVIAN NEWS AGENCY ADDS INTERPRETATION THAT ARBULU QUOTE SUPPORTS THE ATTITUDE ASSUMED BY THE CHILEAN, ARGENTINE, URUGUAYAN AND BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENTS. HIS REPLY PUTS RESPECT FOR THE AUTONOMY OF COUNTRIES ABOVE HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS, AND CONSIDERS PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTITUDE AS INTERVENTION IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. UNQUOTE.

5. FOREGOING STORY PICKED UP BY FBIS IN BUENOS AIRES. FROM REPORTING SO FAR FROM SANTIAGO AND LIMA ON ARBULU'S CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT, IT APPEARS STATEMENT WAS NOT GIVEN PROMINENCE EITHER IN SANTIAGO OR LIMA PRESS. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ARBULU STATEMENT WHICH ADDRESSEE POSTS MIGHT HAVE.

6. STATEMENT BY ARBULU IS DIFFICULT TO HARMONIZE WITH ASSURANCES PASSED BY DE LA PUENTE AND MORALES BERMUDEZ. MAY WELL REFLECT AMBIVALENCE WHICH PERUVIAN LEADERSHIP MUST FEEL ABOUT RIGOROUS APPLICATION OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA. VANCE

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